

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *OUACHITA* - Brownsville, TX
USACE, Galveston District

02/26/95

Load# 156 Start 640 End 1205 Dump 1218

Location (lat/long) Stations 60+00-131+00 H2O Temp 67

Weather Overcast, Winds SE 12-18 knots, Seas 3-5, Air 68 Tide Ebb

0.3 0705

Port Draghead cable, rope, clay, wood. TED: OK

Stbd Draghead cable, rope. TED: OK

Port Overflow rocks, clay.

Stbd Overflow clear.

Port Dis.-Fore Kemp's ridley, rope, fishing line, net, clay.

Stbd Dis.- Mid clay, rope, fishing line, boat throttle, radio cable.

Port Dis.- Aft clay, rocks, net, fishing line, rope, chain.

Skimmer: skates, blue crab, sea grass, net, fishing line, wood, gargage.

Comments: 4 Tt 0840 N jetty 1 Tt 1140 S jetty.

An observer patrolled the hopper at 1130 and did not see a turtle in the forward lander. Just prior to dumping the load, the observer on watch saw a turtle caught in the forward lander. He signalled to the drag tender that he wanted to enter the lander prior to flushing the hopper. The drag tender shut off the pumps to allow the turtle to be removed. This turtle was probably taken in the last half hour of the load. The turtle was dead, badly fractured, missing the right anterior quarter of the body, including the head. The body cavity was empty except for the lining, which remained intact. The lining was purple, light purple, red, and bluish in color. No foul odor was present. The carapace was olive grey, fading to a lighter cream color at the outer edges of the marginal scutes. The plastron was a creamy, pale yellow. The distal ends of the flippers were flecked with grey. The fore flipper had one curved claw, .9cm. in length. The rear flippers had two claws each, the proximal 1 cm. and the distal .5 cm. in length. Fresh blood was present in the cavity.

The turtle was measured and photographed and then placed in the galley freezer.

Tide line very prominent at end of jetties (abrupt change in water color).

Observer(s) On Duty: Phil Tonne

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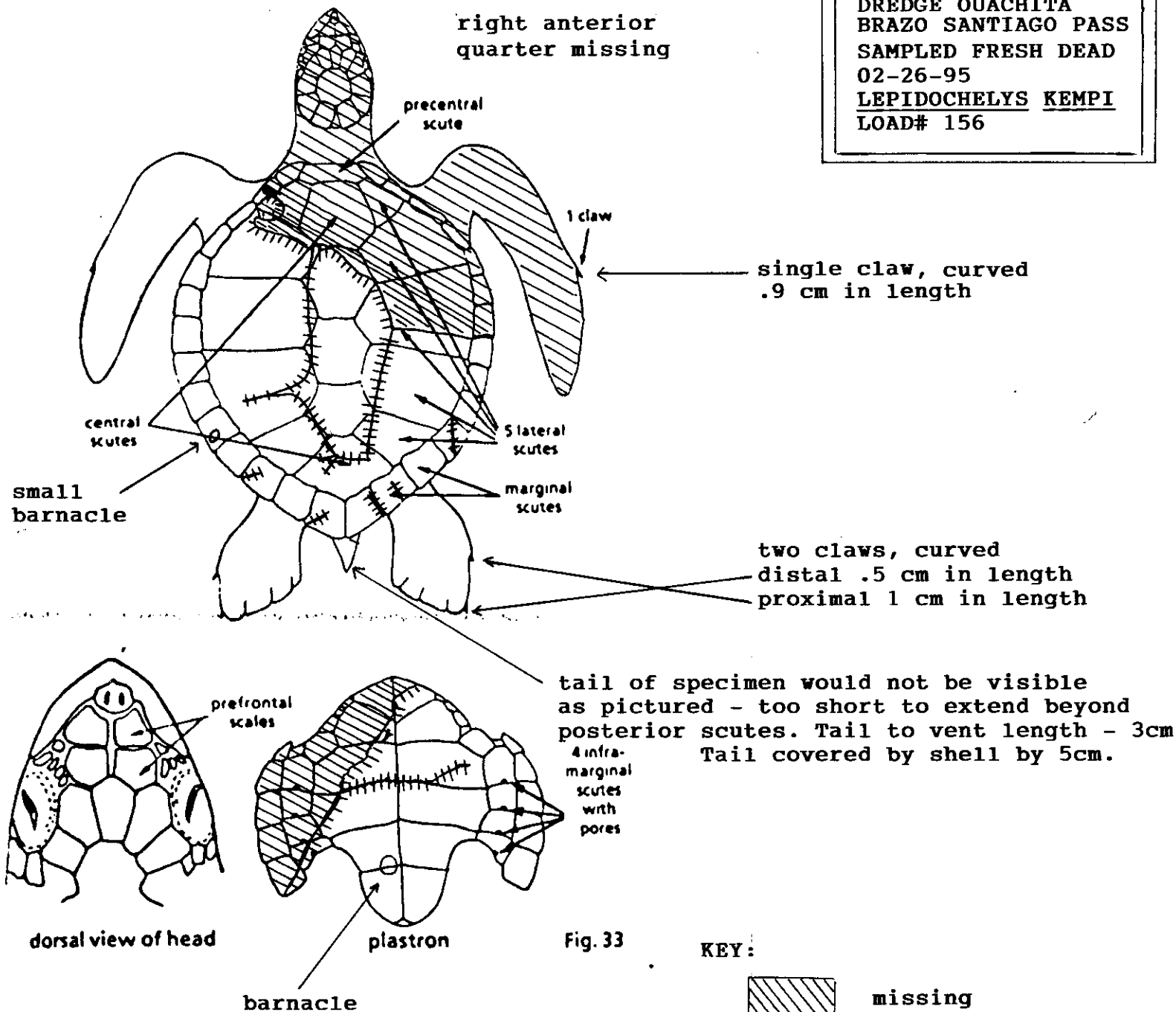
Dredge Ouachita
Project Brazo Santiago Pass. Brownsville, Texas.

INCIDENT REPORT OF SEA TURTLE MORTALITY AND DREDGING ACTIVITY

Species Lepidochelys kemp (Kemp's ridley)
Date 26 February 1995
Time: 24 hour clock 12:18
Geographic site Brazos Santiago Pass
Location: Latitude 26-04-00 N Longitude 97-09-09 W
Vessel name Ouachita
Type of dredging activity Hopper, maintenance.
Load # 156 Start 0640 Stop 1205 Dump 1218
Sampling method Inflow
Location specimen recovered Forward Lander
Draghead deflector? X YES NO
Condition of Deflector OK
Weather conditions Overcast, winds SE 12-18 knots, seas 3-5'.
Water temp: Surface 67 Column
Head width missing
Plastron length N/A (missing anterior)
Carapace S.L. length 28 centimeters
Carapace S.L. width 28 centimeters
Carapace O.C. length
Carapace O.C. width
Condition of specimen Dead, badly fractured. Missing right anterior quarter.
Turtle tagged YES X NO
Tag # Tag Date
Comments/other see report
Observer's Name Phil Tonne

ATTACHMENT #3

DREDGE OUACHITA
BRAZO SANTIAGO PASS
SAMPLED FRESH DEAD
02-26-95
LEPIDOCHELYS KEMPI
LOAD# 156



Body cavity: The body cavity was empty, except for the lining, which remained intact. Fresh blood was present and the lining was purple, light purple, red, and bluish in color. No foul odor was present.